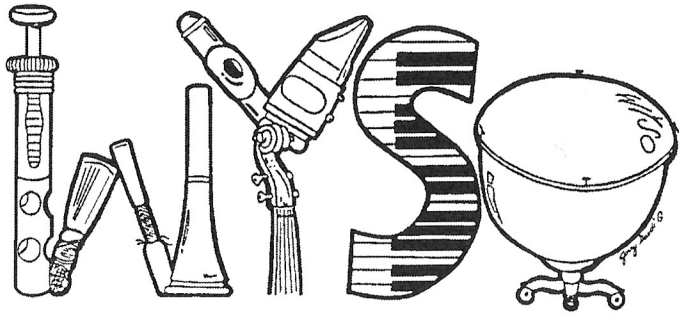

WESTMORELAND YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

Spring Concert

Sunday, April 28, 2024
7:30 p.m.

Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

WSO
WESTMORELAND
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WYSO PHILHARMONIC - PERSONNEL

Violin I
Ilana Aranovich, *concertmaster*
Martin Meyer, *associate concertmaster*
Henry Krom, *assistant concertmaster*
Aidan Shieh
Nolan Schnauber
Beth Cratty
Adam Weber
Olivia Zalewski

Violin II
Rhiannon Bowman, *principal*
Annmarie George, *associate principal*
Emma Balega
Naomi Forsyth
Daniel Lee
Hanna Walters
Leo Sun
Lilly Iwinski
Jorie Butler-Geyer**

Viola
Aaron Wong, *principal*
Ruby Bandli, *associate principal*
Izzy Diaz, *assistant principal*

Cello
Austin Wong, *principal*
Carter Tobin, *associate principal*
Sarah Ferrell**

Flute
Jack Lynch, *principal*
Marion Williams
Alex Schmidt

Oboe
Ariana Aranovich, *principal*
Sarah Balega
Adayah Ganster

Clarinet
Ethan Zeli, *principal*
Alyssa Anderson
Rachel Lloyd

Bassoon
Madi Perleberg, *principal**

French Horn
Jenna Greenawalt, *principal*
Ellie McGonigal

Trumpet
Rachel Snyder, *principal*
Ezra Bowman
Angelo Buffalini

Trombone
Cole Wolfgang, *principal*

Percussion
Bill Scully, *principal*
Zack Egnitz
Kayla Lackey

*SHU
** WYSO faculty

WYSO PHILHARMONIA PERSONNEL

Violin I
Malcolm Krom, *principal*
Johaan George
Finnian Moffatt
Amaya Spadafora
Enzo Varga
Leo Buchan

Violin II
Ava Zannikos, *principal*
Hannah Watson
Bertha Balega
Cathleen Cratty

Viola
Madeline Zalewski
Emmeline Henderson

Cello
Yunfan Shao
Declan Lynch
Abram Held

Flute
Ava Zannikos*
Lilly Smith

Clarinet
Malcolm Krom*

Alto/Baritone Saxophone
Megan Peters

*playing on the Beethoven

STRING ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

Violin
Elizabeth Amarando
Oak DeGroote
Brooke Iwinski
Maria Meyer
Corey Slavin

Cello
Blake Buchan
Ryder Free

Percussion
Elliott Ferrell

Westmoreland Youth Symphony Orchestra Program's Spring Concert

Adam Gillespie, Academy Director and Conductor
Sunday, April 28, 2024

PROGRAM

WYSO String Ensemble
Sarah Ferrell, conductor

J.S. Bach	*Choral*
Westminster Chimes Arr. Steve Hommel	*Traditional Clock Chime*
Steve Hommel	*Rock On!*

WYSO Philharmonia
Jorie Butler-Geyer, conductor

Johnnie Vinson	Excerpts from *Three Czech Folk Songs* I. Walking at Night III. Spring, the MadCap
Beethoven arr. Robert Longfield	*"Allegretto"* from *Symphony No.7*, Op.92

WYSO Philharmonic
Adam Gillespie, conductor

Copland	*Variations on a Shaker Melody*
Mendelssohn	*Violin Concerto E minor, Op. 64* I. Allegro molto appassionato **Ilana Aranovich, violin**
John Williams	*Raiders March* from *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Please, no flash photographs during the performance. Please silence your cell phones.

PROGRAM NOTES—PHILHARMONIC

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) by Daniel Lee
Variations on a Shaker Melody

Aaron Copland is one of America's foremost composers, celebrated for his ability to capture the essence of the American landscape and spirit in his music. Born in Brooklyn in 1900, Copland's compositions often reference the vastness and diversity of the American experience. One of his most famous works is *Appalachian Spring*, a ballet score commissioned by Martha Graham in 1944. This iconic piece encapsulates the pioneer spirit and the beauty of the American countryside, drawing inspiration from the Shaker hymn *Simple Gifts* and the geological landscape of the Appalachian region. *Appalachian Spring* unfolds in a series of variations meant to convey the simplicity and grandeur of rural life. From the opening flute solo to the sweeping strings and brass fanfare, Copland's orchestration paints a vivid image of not only the rolling hills, lush green trees, and a starry night sky, but also of the people that each live their own lives. The music traverses moments of quiet tranquility, blaring celebration, and elegant reflection, mirroring the journey of the ballet's characters as they build a new life in the wilderness. Copland's use of folk melodies and open harmonies further imbues the score with a distinctly American flavor, which resonates with audiences both at home and abroad.

Copland achieves a timeless piece of tradition and innovation, crafting a musical masterpiece that speaks to the heart of the American experience. Through its magnificent melodies and rich orchestration, the piece celebrates the pioneering spirit, resilience, and optimism that have come to define the American identity throughout history. By listening to *Appalachian Spring,* one must embark on a journey through vast landscapes of the American imagination, guided only by Copland's masterful orchestration inspired by the enduring nature of the human spirit.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) by Ilana Aranovich
Violin Concerto, first movement

First premiered in 1845, by esteemed violinist Ferdinand David, the Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto in E minor* is thought of as one of the greatest concertos written for the violin.

The piece was first thought of back in 1835, when the concertmaster of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Ferdinand David, pressed the music director, and close friend of his, Felix Mendelssohn to write a violin concerto. Over the course of nearly 10 years, David aided Mendelssohn in writing the work, most importantly writing the cadenza. Sadly, Mendelssohn was too ill to attend the premiere on March 13, 1845, but the piece was deemed a huge success, and was compared to the revered Beethoven *Violin Concerto.*

Even though it was compared to the Beethoven *Violin Concerto,* it is nothing like it. All three of its movements are played through with no pauses, and excludes the usual, vast orchestral introduction. And later on, Mendelssohn slides in a structural surprise. The composer provides a pre-written cadenza which acts as the end of the development. Near the end of the cadenza, the orchestra enters with a recapitulation of the original theme accompanied by the soloist playing an arpeggiated figure derived from the cadenza.

John Williams (b. 1930) by Olivia Zalewski
Raiders March from *Indiana Jones and Raiders of the Lost Ark*

John Williams is perhaps the most famous and accomplished composer alive today. His fame rests on the dozens of movie scores he has composed, including the entire *Star Wars* saga, the *Indiana Jones* series we will be playing tonight, and the initial *Harry Potter* films. *Raiders March* is the main theme music for the Indiana Jones series of films. It was written for the release of the first film in the series, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, in 1981. This film follows the adventures of Indiana Jones, a 1930s archaeologist and explorer who finds himself face-to-face with mystical treasures and villains worldwide. It was an instant hit, the highest-grossing film of 1981, and a winner of multiple awards. The theme music has become an iconic representation of adventure for generations of moviegoers.

PROGRAM NOTES—PHILHARMONIA

Johnnie Vinson (b. 1944) by Jorie Butler-Geyer
Excerpts from *Three Czech Folk Songs*
I. Walking at Night
II. Spring, the Madcap

Originally written in 1991, *Three Czech Folk Songs* draws from traditional Czech melodies, such as "Stodola Pumpa," a song which is sung during recreational and/or outdoor activities, such as hiking, or singing around a campfire. Renamed here as "Walking at Night," the piece alternates between a meandering, strolling melodic theme, bookended by a rollicking, upbeat secondary line. In "Spring, the MadCap," the work concludes in a grand fashion, full of rhythmic vigor and lively refrains. *Three Czech Folk Songs* was dedicated to and premiered by the Auburn Junior High School Symphonic Band and its director at the time, Carla Gallahan, at the Southeastern United States Band Clinic in January of 1992.

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Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) by Jorie Butler-Geyer
arr. Robert Longfield
"*Allegretto*" from *Symphony No.7, Op.92*

While Ludwig van Beethoven hardly needs an introduction, the second movement, "Allegretto," of his Seventh Symphony, has a history of its own. The symphony was premiered on December 8, 1813, in the Great Hall of the University of Vienna, and, according to observers, was Beethoven's "most successful premiere." The second movement in particular was extremely well-received, as the audience (at the premiere and subsequent performances) applauded at its conclusion, and demanded that it be repeated, disrupting the later movements of the symphony. Though it is simple in terms of rhythmic structure, the movement begins with a somber, dirge-like motif that grows, building in thematic interest to a frenzy of momentum and sound, all while underlying a yearning, twisted melodic line that moves throughout the ensemble. However, the movement ends not with a bang, but with a whimper, as the thrilling march slowly recedes into the ether.

In recent years, the *Allegretto* movement was re-introduced to the general public via the Oscar-winning film "The King's Speech," specifically, scoring a dramatic scene where King George VI addresses the United Kingdom on the eve of World War II. Similarly, when the symphony originally debuted, it was for a benefit concert for soldiers wounded in the Battle of Hanau, a small victory for the Coalition of European powers during the Napoleonic Wars. Beethoven, having been disillusioned with Napoleon's spiral from revolutionary hero to all-out tyrant, was more than happy to have his music support the downfall of his former hero.

SOLOIST BIO

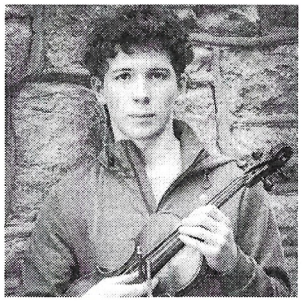
Ilana Aranovich is a young violinist from Franklin Regional Senior High School. She studies with Kristina Yoder, and is a member of the Three Rivers Youth Symphony Orchestra, Westmoreland Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Starling Quartet. Over the last few years, Ilana has attended the Interlochen Summer Arts Academy, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and the Ithaca Summer Music Academy. Recently Ilana was the first place winner in the Young Artists Competition held by the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra. Other than violin, Ilana enjoys playing percussion in the school marching band, playing tennis, and participating in the science Olympiad team.

SENIOR BIOS

Veteran Members 3+years

Sarah Balega has played oboe in the philharmonic for the past three years and before that she played flute in Philharmonia. Sarah is a member of the Greater Latrobe Marching band (piccolo) and the Drama club. She is the president of both the Makerspace Club and Reading Competition team. She is also a member of the National Honors Society, French National Honors Society, French Club, Global Scholars, and Tri-M Music Honors Society. Sarah will major in Mechanical Engineering in college.

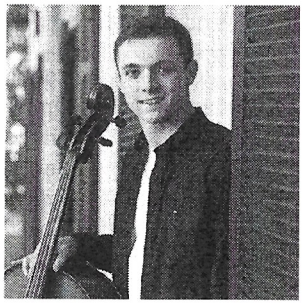
Henry Krom has been a member of WYSO for the past seven years. Outside of WYSO, Henry runs cross country, plays tennis, and is a member of the Latrobe High School Drama Club. His other musical pursuits include singing in chamber choir and playing piano in wind ensemble, bass guitar in jazz band, and tenor saxophone in marching band. After graduation, Henry plans to attend The Catholic University of America to pursue a degree in Architecture and Civil Engineering. Henry would like to extend a huge thank you to his director Adam and string coach Ms. Ramona, as well as previous director Mr. Brand, for encouraging him to excel as a musician and providing him with many fantastic musical opportunities throughout his many years with WYSO.



Martin Meyer is a graduating junior at PA Leadership Charter School. He is an active member of NHS, FHS, and Tri-M, where he serves as historian. He began playing violin in third grade at Christ the Divine Teacher School (CDT), and he continues private study with Lisa Thackrah. In fifth grade, Martin joined the WYSO Philharmonia, and in seventh grade, he moved into the WYSO Philharmonic where he is currently Associate Concertmaster. Martin was awarded the 2024 WSO FEMC Mildred A. Gardner Scholarship. He enjoys giving back to the community as a volunteer for several local organizations, where he demonstrates fiber arts, performs on violin, and manages social media accounts. Next year, Martin will pursue a Music BA at Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Cook Honors College and plans to double major in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management.

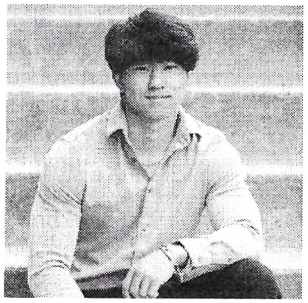
Bill Scully has been a music student for nearly ten years, and since then, he has participated in a wide variety of musical ensembles and other projects. At Franklin Regional High School, he spent all four years participating in the marching band. He was the drumline captain for the 2023 season, and he spent several months composing and teaching the percussion parts for the marching band's halftime show. He also played in the orchestra pit in their 2024 production of *West Side Story*.

He has been the principal timpanist and percussionist in the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra's Academy of Music since 2018, and this season marks his ninth and final performance with the WYSO Philharmonic. In his free time, he plays with a local church's handbell choir, creates experimental electronic music, and does volunteer work for Franklin Regional's music program. After graduating, Bill plans to attend Seton Hill University, where he will continue his journey in music performance and education!



Carter Tobin is a senior at Norwin High School, and playing in his fifth season with WYSO. Carter has played his cello since the age of ten, taking private lessons with Rana Ganjineh of Rana's Music Studio. As he progressed, he began lessons with Sarah Farrell. In addition to WYSO, Carter is part of the Select Orchestra at Norwin High School, and enjoys playing as part of the Joyful Noise Ensemble at his Church.

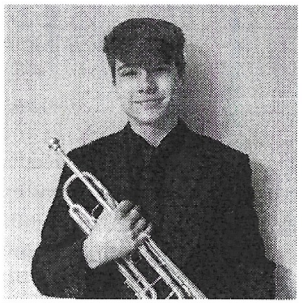
Carter runs on the Norwin Track & Field Team, and has practiced martial arts for over 10 years achieving his Black Belt in Shotokan Karate. Carter is an avid skier and member of the Norwin Ski Club where he volunteers with the Winter Special Olympics. He also participates in the History Club, Model United Nations and the Japanese Club. Carter plans to attend Penn State University's Behrend Campus to study Computer Engineering and compete on their track team. Carter is grateful to Adam, Morrie, Ramona and Sarah for the wonderful experience of playing with the Youth Symphony. Thank you!



Austin Wong is a senior at Norwin High School. He has played cello for more than seven years and has been in the Westmoreland Youth Symphony Orchestra for more than five years. Austin says, "Cello has played a big role in my life as a hobby and an activity to connect with my younger brothers who play the violin and viola. I am very passionate about lifting and love to go to the gym. I am committed to Penn State to pursue engineering."

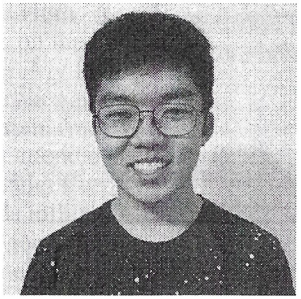
SENIOR BIOS

Premiere Season Musicians (1 or less years)



Angelo Buffalini is a senior from Norwin High School that plays the trumpet. He will attend WVU in the fall of 2024 majoring in social studies secondary education with a minor in music. He plans to march in the Memphis Blues drum corps this year as well as play in the many ensembles offered by WVU's music program, including their own orchestra. Angelo started playing trumpet in fifth grade, continuing in middle school and high school when he joined marching band. He has taken private lessons since the fall of his sophomore year and he plays in Norwin's wind ensemble attending many PMEA events including district, region, jazz, and county band. He is a member of Norwin's bowling and Model U.N. team as well as participating in the History and Chess clubs, and others.

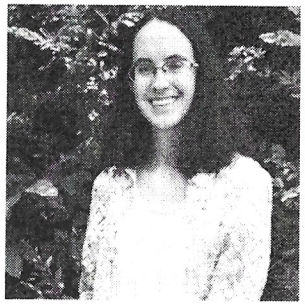
Jenna Greenawalt is a senior at Norwin High School. She has been a member of the marching band for five years, during which she participated in color guard, played mellophone, and was drum major. Jenna played French horn in Wind Ensemble for four years and played viola in Select Orchestra for the past three years. Additionally, she has played the trumpet and upright bass in Jazz Band for two years. She has participated in numerous PMEA and WCMEA honors band and orchestra ensembles over the years, most recently performing at the state level, with the 2024 PMEA All-State Concert Band. In addition to her music accomplishments, she also performs with Norwin World Color Guard. Jenna's post high school plans are to attend Slippery Rock University to major in early childhood education and minor in music for education.



Daniel Lee is a senior at Penn-Trafford High School. He writes, "I play tennis and am on the track team. I also take violin and voice lessons. My favorite things to do in my free time are flying drones and 3D printing. My oldest brother is a Naval submarine officer and spends months underwater. I attend a military program called the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, which aims to give young adults and kids military experience. It's tough and a lot of effort goes into it physically and mentally, but I have learned a lot from this program. I have visited South Korea several times for summer vacation, and it's my favorite place to go for vacation. I was accepted into the Air Force Academy a month ago, and I could not have been any happier. From a young age, the dream of soaring through the skies as a pilot in the Air Force has always been my greatest aspiration. The thrill of piloting advanced aircraft and serving my country has fueled my passion for aviation.

Continues on next page

The prospect of joining the ranks of brave men and women who defend our skies and uphold the values of freedom and justice fills me with a profound sense of purpose. Pursuing a career as an Air Force pilot represents not only a personal ambition but also a commitment to excellence, service, and the pursuit of a higher calling. Besides becoming a pilot, I also aspire to join the Air Force Orchestra. I will officially be joining the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado in June."



Rachel Snyder is a senior at Greater Latrobe High School and principal trumpet of WYSO. This is her second semester playing with the orchestra. A dedicated participant in her school's music program, Rachel is a current member of the Greater Latrobe wind ensemble, jazz band, and marching band. Additionally, she is a part of several honor societies, including National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and Spanish NHS. When she has free time, she loves to draw, write, and compose music. Rachel has recently committed to University of Delaware, where she plans to double-major in marine science and art. Although not a prospective music major, she hopes to continue playing the trumpet throughout college and beyond.

Leo Sun is a senior graduating from Greater Latrobe Senior High School. Leo is a second violinist in the Westmoreland Youth Symphony Orchestra. Leo is a captain of the KD Quiz team, member of NHS, Makerspace Club, FCA, and A Cappella Ensemble at Latrobe. Outside of school, he is a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, and a member of the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Department. Leo plans on studying Aviation Management at St. Vincent College. He will be a member of the Aurelius Scholar in Western Civilization, Benedictine Leadership Studies Program, and St. Vincent Honors Program. He plans on pursuing a career in the public sector. Leo would like to thank his family, friends, and community for their support.

Marion Williams is a senior flute player and has felt honored to be part of the Westmoreland Youth Symphony Orchestra. She has been taking flute lessons since the age of nine and has enjoyed playing in WCMEA County Band, Seton Hill Honors Band, PMEA District Band, Tutti Flutti (a flute ensemble at Seton Hill), and The Westmoreland Symphonic Winds. Aside from playing the flute, Marion is passionate about creating art. After graduation, she plans on studying special effects makeup in the Tom Savini program at the Douglas Education Center.

ACADEMY STAFF

Adam Gillespie, Academy Director & Conductor
Mr. Gillespie brings a wealth of teaching, performing, and conducting experience to the position. He is a professional trumpet player and performs throughout the Pittsburgh region. He earned a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from Carnegie Mellon University and a Bachelor of Music in Performance from Alderson Broaddus University. He maintains a private studio, serves on the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) School of Music and serves as a section coach for the CMU All-University Orchestra, and has worked with the Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestra.

Jorie Butler-Geyer, Philharmonia Conductor
Jorie Butler-Geyer has performed in orchestral and chamber music concerts on three continents, and was recently appointed Principal Second Violin of the WSO. Additionally, she is the first violinist of the Pittsburgh-based Academy String Quartet, and regularly performs as a member of the Erie Philharmonic and Canton Symphony. She is also a member of the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra, based in Jackson Hole, WY. In 2018, she was Chamber Artist-in-Residence at Strings Music Festival in Steamboat Springs, CO performing as a member of Quartet Bellini. Ms. Butler-Geyer received both a bachelor's and master's degree from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and completed her Master of Music at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts.

Sarah Ferrell, String Ensemble Conductor
Sarah Ferrell (Née Morris) has been working as a professional cellist from a young age and performs in a variety of genres ranging from professional symphony orchestras to HBO TV music events. Sarah regularly performs with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra Quartet, Erie Philharmonic, and Laurel Valley String Quartet. She has often been called upon to be acting principal or assistant principal of the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, and is a proud alum of the Westmoreland Youth Symphony where her love of orchestra originated.

Sarah is the cello teacher at the Westmoreland Symphony Academy of Music. She is the conductor of the Westmoreland Symphony's String Ensemble, cello coach of Westmoreland Youth Symphony Orchestra and Seton Hill University Honors Orchestra. Sarah recently created and produced a cello masterclass with famed cellist Cicely Parnas in conjunction with Seton Hill University and the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra. Sarah taught as adjunct professor of cello and Community Music instructor at Seton Hill University.

Mrs. Ferrell received her B.M. in Cello Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, studying under former Baltimore Symphony Principal Cellist, Mihaly Virizlay. She further received her M.M. in Cello Performance from Boston University, *continues*

studying under Muir String Quartet Cellist, Michael Reynolds. Prior to her University instruction, Mrs. Ferrell studied privately with Pittsburgh Symphony members Mikhail Istomin and Anne Martindale Williams, and Northwestern University Professor Hans Jørgen Jensen. Sarah is an avid dog trainer and does volunteer visits with her certified therapy dog Wallace, and trains in Agility and Flyball with her sport dog Artie.

Ramona Coppage, Manager & Violin Coach
Ramona Coppage, a native of Vienna, Virginia, attended George Mason University and the Indiana University School of Music, Bloomington, Indiana. Her performing and teaching career began in the greater Washington D.C. area. She has been on the faculty of the D.C. Youth Orchestra Program, where she taught orchestra sectionals at all levels. She was also a member of the Resource Professional Program in the nation's capital, a government-funded program that placed professional musicians in the public schools. In the Pittsburgh area she holds positions with the Westmoreland Suzuki School and the WSO Academy of Music. She also serves as the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra's Music Librarian.

Special Thanks

Many of these programs have been partially underwritten by grants from the Allegheny Foundation, Buhl Foundation, Jack Buncher Foundation, Michael J. Kakos and Aimee Rusinko Kakos, McFeely-Rogers Foundation, Robertshaw Charitable Foundation and the Smiy Family Foundation. We thank them for their continued support!

Private Teachers of WYSO Members

Violin
Aaron Blackham
Sam Burns
Jorie Butler-Geyer
Ramona Coppage
Janet Hackett
Joyce Rosenbauer
Olga Taimanov
Lisa Thackrah
Stephen Weiss
Amaya Williams
Kristina Yoder

Viola
Sam Burns
Olga Taimanov
Stephen Weiss

Cello
Sarah Ferrell
Maddie Thurman

Flute
Michele Boulet
Dan Parasky

Oboe
Louise Daniels
Cheryl Hull

Clarinet
Patti Flowers Jacobina
Lisa Thackrah

Bassoon
Grace Houde

Horn
Arias Flory

Trumpet
Arias Flory
Thomas Milchick
Matt Pienkawski

Trombone
Robert Insko

Alto/Baritone Saxophone
Roger Johnston

Tumpani/Percussion
Brian Coiner
Austin Schmidt